

Report to Cabinet

Approval to Extend the Contract for the Delivery of Oldham's Integrated Support Services to Young People

Portfolio Holder: Cabinet Member – Children's Services (Councillor Amanda Chadderton)

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Reason for Decision

The current contract for delivery of Oldham's Integrated Support Services for young people (commonly referred to as Targeted Youth Services) end on March 31st 2019. There is provision within the contract to allow for a further year's extension and this report requests approval to extend the contract for a further 1 year from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Executive Summary

The Council currently commissions Positive Steps to deliver a range of services to support Oldham's young people under the overarching banner of Targeted Youth Services. Whilst Positive Steps have been the provider of some of these services for some considerable time, the current contractual arrangement commenced in April 2015. The service offer consists of

- support to young people around sexual health and substance misuse;
- services for young carers;
- delivery of missing from home return interviews;
- careers information advice and guidance to vulnerable groups and
- Youth Justice Service.

Many of these services have their basis in statutory requirements of the local authority and stakeholders within the Council range across public health, education and children's social care.

Contract monitoring and performance data shows overall good performance against the contract particularly when considered against budget reductions over the four years it has been in place. Both the SEND review in October 2017 and the independently led review into children's social care in January 2018 highlighted positive aspects of delivery.

An example of the success of the integrated model across Positive Steps are the education, employment and training (EET) outcomes for young people involved in the criminal justice system. The addition of a resettlement and education co-ordinator to the team has continued to evidence a positive impact on outcomes.

We are close to completing a strategic review of the Council and key partners approach to early intervention and prevention. This review will make recommendations about investment in, commissioning and design of preventative services for both adults and children on a place based footing that may have direct relevance to this contract(s) and how going forward the range of services currently provided integrate with preventative activity taking place in communities.

An extension of twelve months to the current contract with Positive Steps will allow the implications of these recommendations to be worked through and implemented.

Recommendation

That approval is given to extend the contract for the delivery of Oldham's Integrated Support Services for Young People with the current provider Positive Steps for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Approval to extend the contract for delivery of Oldham's Integrated Support Services for Young People

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council currently commissions Positive Steps to deliver a range of services to support Oldham's young people under the overarching banner of Targeted Youth Services. These include support to young people around sexual health and substance misuse; services for young carers; delivery of missing from home return interviews; careers information advice and guidance as well as the Council's Youth Justice Service.
- 1.2 The contract is part-funded by Public Health and Youth Justice Grant, with the balance of funding being Council mainstream budget, any reduction in these sources of funding has been applied as a reduction in the contract value rather than by increasing the base budget.
- 1.3 Positive Steps have successfully delivered against the targets set within the contract and have worked with the Council to accommodate budget reductions across service delivery. Targets for 2019/20 will be discussed in line with the savings applied.
- 1.4 A further savings proposal in 2017/18 was approved to reduce the 2018/19 contract value. The required reduction was only implemented for the final 2 quarters of the year.
- 1.4 The full reduction will apply for 2019/20.
- 1.5 It should also be noted that Positive Steps also deliver the commissioned element of the Council's Early Help Offer. This service area is currently subject to a review in order to inform future commissioning intent.
- 1.6 The outcome of this review could result in changes for Positive Steps as a delivery organisation in terms of possible further funding reductions which may impact on staffing and availability to offer a flexible yet effective delivery model.
- 1.7 This report is to approve a contract extension for a further 1 year period.
- 1.8 It should also be noted that there is potential for reduction to the overall contract value as a result of reduced Youth Justice Grant. Historically, this amount has been reduced, year on year however, we are not normally notified of final figures until later in the year.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The current contract with Positive Steps is delivered under 3 key service function areas which are detailed below:
 - Lot 1 - The health and wellbeing of our young people
 - Lot 2 – The prevention and reduction of youth offending and crime prevention -
 - Lot 3 – Support for vulnerable young people who are at risk

- 2.2 The contract includes some of the key performance indicators for the most vulnerable cohort including reducing the NEET (not engaged in education, employment and training) rate and reducing youth re-offending.
- 2.3 Taking into account the funding reductions to service delivery and wider socio economic challenges which have impacted on some of the cohorts they support, Positive Steps have continued to achieve the key performance measures to a good standard and have contributed to an overall improvement of outcomes for children and young people.
- 2.4 The challenges facing Oldham's children and young people continue to increase and support for vulnerable cohorts is essential to ensure they meet their full potential and progress into productive adulthood in line with Council ambition.
- 2.5 It should be noted that the reduction of funding for 2018/19 has resulted in a reduced offer in one or more key service areas within the contract and may have an impact on the outcomes already achieved.
- 2.6 We have worked with Positive Steps to manage the reduction and to explore wider funding opportunities to offset some of the impact.
- 2.7 Against the three main contract areas there are a number of Key Performance Indicators some of which are the prime responsibility of Positive Steps and others where they are a contributing agency.
- 2.8 We are close to completing a strategic review of the Council and key partners approach to early intervention and prevention. This review will make recommendations about investment in, commissioning and design of preventative services for both adults and children on a place based footing that may have direct relevance to this contract(s) and how going forward the range of services currently provided integrate with preventative activity taking place in communities. An extension of twelve months to the current contract with Positive Steps will allow the implications of these recommendations to be worked through and implemented.

3. **Options/Alternatives**

3.1 **Option 1 – exercise the option to extend the current contract for twelve months**

Extend the contract for the delivery of Targeted Youth Services for Oldham's Young People to Positive Steps for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. This option would guarantee service continuity and ensure young people continue to be able to access services through an integrated delivery model. Consideration has been given to an extension for a period of six months but it is not thought that this is enough time to complete the strategic review and also commission any remodelled services.

3.2 **Option 2 – cease commissioning arrangements with Positive Steps**

Decide not to extend the current commissioning arrangements with Positive Steps beyond 31st March 2019 when the current contract expires. This option is not thought to be tenable as it would leave the Council in breach of some of its statutory duties. Key elements within the contract have a statutory basis and the range of services aims to ensure vulnerable young people have the best chance of progressing into productive adulthood in line with Council ambition.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 Option 1 – extend the current contract

Extend the contract for the delivery of Targeted Youth Services for Oldham's Young People to Positive Steps for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 guaranteeing service continuity until new arrangements are established.

5 Consultation

5.1 Previously, we have received extensive formal feedback from service users via the current provider for each of the service areas. The feedback was very positive and complimentary of highly regarded services for young people, and clearly references easy access to services, flexible and accommodating staff and strong support.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Subject to the same levels of funding from Public Health and Youth Justice Grant the proposed contract extension is affordable.
C. Holdaway (Accountant)

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 There is a provision within Rule 17.1 (a) of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to modify a contract for the provision of services where the original tendered contract contains clauses allowing for such modification as well as the conditions under which they may be used and do not provide for modifications that would alter the overall nature of the contract. This is the case here where the contract was awarded for three years with the option to "extend the term of the contract by a further period or periods of up to twenty four months provided that the total term of the contract does not exceed a total of five years." . (Elizabeth Cunningham Doyle)

8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 The recommended option aligns with the Council's Co-operative agenda. The provider is an existing local organisation with a proven track record of engaging Oldham's most vulnerable young people in positive activities.

8.2 The activities included within these services are aimed at ensuring young people achieve and succeed, becoming productive Oldham citizens. They encourage young people to do more for themselves and promote independence for young people so that they can begin to take responsibility for their own future and 'do their' bit for themselves and for Oldham as a Borough.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 N/A

11 IT Implications

- 11.1 None.
- 12 **Property Implications**
- 12.1 None.
- 13 **Procurement Implications**
- 13.1 Provision exists in the original procurement exercise to extend this contract in line with the recommendations in this report. Strategic Sourcing therefore supports the recommendations in this report. Mohammad Sharif, Sourcing & Contracts Consultant 07.12.2018
- 14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1 None.
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 Positive Steps is an established and regarded provider of services in Oldham. They have extensive partnership arrangements in place and are effective in engaging members of the community. Positive Steps is required to actively engage young people from across the many diverse communities within Oldham and this recommended option provides continued opportunity for them to do so.
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 Yes
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 PCS-02-18.
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 None
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 None